

He will be missed by his family and the community at large.

Today, I ask my colleagues to stand with me and honor his life, his accomplishments, and his family.

IN HONOR OF REVEREND DR. E.
THEOPHILUS CAVINESS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 14, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Reverend Dr. E. Theophilus Caviness, the pastor of Greater Abyssinia Baptist Church for 50 years. Rev. Dr. Caviness is being honored by the City of Cleveland as it dedicates Tacoma Avenue from East 105th Street to Parkwood Drive as "Rev. Dr. E. Theophilus Caviness Way."

Born and raised in Marshall, Texas, Rev. Dr. Caviness became aware and involved in the fight against discrimination of the African American population at an early age. He attended Bishop College in Dallas, Texas and Eden Theological Seminary in Webster Groves, Missouri. Before coming to the City of Cleveland, Rev. Dr. Caviness served as the pastor of St. Mark's Baptist Church in Picton, Texas, Mount Nebo Baptist Church in Madison, Illinois and St. Paul Baptist Church in East St. Louis, Missouri. He used his position as a minister and lifetime member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) to bring people together to create change during the Civil Rights movement.

In 1961, Rev. Dr. Caviness moved to Cleveland and became the pastor of Greater Abyssinia Baptist Church. He immediately became involved in Cleveland's Civil Rights movement. In conjunction with his pastoral duties, Rev. Dr. Caviness has served on Cleveland's Zoning Board of Appeals, Planning Board of the Glenville Area Council and Sewer Board of Cleveland. Additionally, he served as a Councilman in Cleveland City Council from 1974 to 1980, worked as the executive assistant to former Mayor George Voinovich and served two terms as chair of the Ohio Civil Rights Commission. Rev. Dr. Caviness continues his advocacy work as President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference Cleveland Chapter, board chair of Community Covenant Oversight Team for the "Closing the Gap" Initiative, and is currently working with Rev. Al Sharpton and the National Action Network.

Because of his dedication and longtime service to the fight against racism, Rev. Dr. Caviness has received an honorary doctorate of divinity degree from Lynchburg Virginia Seminary and an honorary doctorate of law degree from Central State University. He will also be inducted into the International Civil Rights Walk of Fame on January 6, 2012.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Rev. Dr. E. Theophilus Caviness as the City of Cleveland celebrates his tireless work in the Greater Cleveland community and as a leader in the continuing Civil Rights movement.

HONORING THE LIFE OF REV-
EREND FRED SHUTTLESWORTH

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 14, 2011

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Reverend Fred Shuttlesworth, one of the great, unsung leaders of the Civil Rights movement, and a major figure in the historic fight for justice and equality. Fred Shuttlesworth was born Fred Robinson on March 18, 1922 in Mount Meigs, Alabama. He was raised in Birmingham, Alabama by his mother, Alberta Robinson who married William Nathan Shuttlesworth at which point Fred Robinson took the last name Shuttlesworth.

Fred Shuttlesworth was the eldest of eight siblings. His family survived by sharecropping and making moonshine liquor. In the early 1940s, Fred Shuttlesworth became a truck driver before joining the Baptist Church in 1944. He then studied ministry at Selma University and began preaching at Selma's First Baptist Church. He graduated from Selma in 1951. In 1953, Shuttlesworth became pastor of Bethel Baptist Church in Birmingham. His life as a social activist peaked that following year, when his attention was captured by a newspaper headline announcing that the U.S. Supreme Court had outlawed school segregation in *Brown vs. Board of Education*. "I felt like I was a man, that I had rights," Shuttlesworth said, recalling his reaction.

In 1955, he supported the Montgomery bus boycott, led by Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Shuttlesworth became a Birmingham activist, joining the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in their voter registration efforts. When the state of Alabama essentially outlawed the NAACP in 1956, Shuttlesworth found and led the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights to take direct action to end racial segregation.

Reverend Shuttlesworth was no stranger to adverse racial situations and always emerged strong and undefeated. On Christmas night in 1956, Shuttlesworth survived a bomb blast that blew out the walls and floor of his home, destroying his residence. In response to being told by an officer that he should leave town, he replied, "Officer, you're not me. You go back and tell your Klan brethren if God could keep me through this, then I'm here for the duration." The next day he led 200 people onto Birmingham's buses.

In 1957, he undertook integrating Birmingham's schools by attempting to enroll his daughters in an all-white high school. Outraged by his act, Klansmen attacked him with brass knuckles and chains. He miraculously survived without a concussion and said to the doctor, "Doctor, the Lord knew I lived in a hard town, so he gave me a hard head." Dr. Martin Luther Jr. described Shuttlesworth as "the most courageous civil rights fighter in the South."

Later that year, Shuttlesworth joined Dr. King, Ralph Abernathy and Bayard Rustin to launch the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, which became the leading force of the civil rights movement. Shuttlesworth served as the organization's first secretary from 1958 to 1970. He later served briefly as its president in 2004.

During the early 1960s, Shuttlesworth participated in numerous sit-in protests, mobilized

marches, helped Congress on Racial Equality organize its Freedom Rides and had already been arrested more than 30 times in his fight for equality. In 1963, this collaboration culminated in colossal demonstrations in Birmingham to pressure downtown department stores to desegregate. A few days after being hospitalized due to being slammed against a wall by water from a fire hose, the local leaders of Birmingham announced that fitting rooms and lunchroom counters would be desegregated, signs on restrooms and drinking fountains would be removed and that there would be further steps to advance African-American employment. When President Kennedy introduced to Congress legislation that would later become the Civil Rights Act of 1964, he told Shuttlesworth and King, "But for Birmingham, we would not be here today."

In 1966, Rev. Shuttlesworth became pastor of the Greater New Light Baptist Church. In 1988, he founded and served as director of the Shuttlesworth Housing Foundation, an organization that helped low-income families buy their homes. In 2001, President Bill Clinton awarded Rev. Shuttlesworth a Presidential Citizens Medal—the nation's second-highest civilian award—for helping found the SCLC and for his "leadership in the 'non-violent' civil rights movement of the 1950s and 60s, leading efforts to integrate Birmingham, Alabama's schools, buses and recreational facilities."

Reverend Fred Shuttlesworth passed away on Wednesday, October 5, 2011 in Birmingham, Alabama at 89 years of age. Reverend Shuttlesworth is survived by his wife, Sephira Bailey Shuttlesworth, four daughters, Patricia Massengill, Ruby "Ricky" Bester, Carolyn Shuttlesworth and Maria Murdock; a son, Fred Jr.; a stepdaughter, Audrey Wilson; five sisters, Betty Williams, Truzella Brazil, Ernestine Grimes, Iwilder Reid and Eula Mitchell; 14 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild. He will be remembered for his leadership and commitment to the Civil Rights Movement. His was a life well-lived.

COMMEMORATING THE FIRST AN-
NIVERSARY OF THE KENYAN
CONSTITUTION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 14, 2011

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, last August we witnessed a flowering of freedom in Eastern Africa. On August 5, 2010, Kenya endorsed a brand new constitution, which guaranteed all Kenyan citizens the rights to security, housing, food, life, freedom from discrimination and the freedom of expression, among others. I rise today to recognize the recent anniversary of this constitution's adoption, and to congratulate the Republic of Kenya on this remarkable step forward.

Despite being home to the first African woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize—Wangari Maathai, who sadly passed away last month—Kenya had long treated women as second-class citizens. In the past, female candidates for office have had to carry knives and wear extra garments to fend off the possibility of politically-motivated rape.